

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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ERDA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: TECH, JA
SUBJECT: TOKAI-MURA ISSUE

FOLLOWING ITEM APPEARED AUGUST 16 NIHON KEIZAI. ATTENTION IS
DIRECTED PARTICULARLY TO PARAGRAPH 7. QUOTE:

1. US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION
PROBLEMS SMITH WILL VISIT JAPAN AROUND THE END OF THIS
WEEK, AND WILL CONDUCT THE THIRD ROUND OF US-JAPAN NUCLEAR
FUEL REPROCESSING NEGOTIATIONS WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AGENCY DIRECTOR GENERAL UNO, IN TOKYO, ON THE 22ND AND THE
23RD. SIX MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE US-JAPAN NEGOTIATIONS
ON THE PROPRIETY OF OPERATING THE TOKAI-MURA REPROCESSING
PLANT STARTED IN WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 22.

2. DURING THAT PERIOD,THE FUKUDA-CARTER TALKS WERE HELD
IN WASHINGTON LATE IN MARCH, THE SEVEN-NATION SUMMIT CON-
FERENCE WAS HELD IN LONDON EARLY IN MAY, THE FIFTEEN-ATOMIC-
ENERGY-SUPPLIER-NATION CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN LONDON, THE
INFCEP (INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION PLAN)
PREPARATORY CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN PARIS, AND THE
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"INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ATOMIC POWERGENERATION
AND NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLES/ WAS HELD IN SALZBURG.
MOREOVER, THE US-JAPAN JOINT INSPECTION WAS CARRIED
OUT AT TOKAI-MURA. THUS, TOP-LEVEL, OPERATIONAL-
LEVEL, BILATERAL, AND MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS
AND CONSULTATIONS WERE REPEATEDLY CONDUCTED, BUT
SETTLEMENT HAS STILL NOT BEEN SECURED. FROM THE

STANDPOINT OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS, WHICH ARE OF SUCH A NATURE THAT "IF TALKS ARE HELD, THEN AN UNDERSTANDING CAN BE REACHED," THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE HAD HARDER SAILING THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED, AND HAVE THUS BECOME EXCEPTIONALLY PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS.

3. PARTICULARLY AS THE PROBLEM IS AN INTERNATIONALLY SENSITIVE THEME, WHICH IS CONNECTED WITH "NUCLEAR" (FUEL, IT IS INADVISABLE TO LEAVE THE DISCORD BETWEEN THE US AND JAPAN UNHEEDED FOR A LONG TIME. AS A RESULT OF THE 180-DAY DEBATES, THE TWO SIDES' ASSERTIONS HAVE BEEN FULLY DISCUSSED, WHILE THE POINTS AT ISSUE HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED. THE JOINT INSPECTION MISSION HAS ALREADY SUBMITTED 15 ALTERNATIVE PLANS, AS THE BASIS FOR REACHING AGREEMENT. THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING, AND THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT A STAGE WHERE THEY SHOULD BE SETTLED. THE THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE A PRECIOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE RESPONSIBLE LEADERS OF JAPAN AND AMERICA TO EXCHANGE FRANK VIEWS AND TO SURMOUNT THE DEADLOCKED SITUATION, THUS ENDEAVORING TO MAKE MUTUAL CONNESSIONS IN A POSITIVE WAY. EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO BOIL DOWN THE PROBLEM ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL, IN ADVANCE, AND TO SECURE A COMPLETE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND JAPAN, THROUGH DIRECTOR GENERAL UNO'S VISIT TO THE US, SLATED FOR AFTER THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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4. SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE SMITH SHOULD INSPECT THE TOKAI-MURA REPROCESSING PLANT IN QUESTION. THE PLANT HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED THROUGH THE USE OF STATE FUNDS AMOUNTING TO 62 BILLION YEN. HOWEVER, IT IS STILL IMPOSSIBLE TO START THE TEST OPERATION OF THE PLANT, BECAUSE THE US SIDE'S CONSENT, BASED ON PARAGRAPH C, ARTICLE 8 OF THE US-JAPAN ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT, HAS NOT BEEN OBTAINED. MOREOVER, IT IS AN "EXPERIMENTAL PLANT," WHICH IS CAPABLE OF REPROCESSING USED NUCLEAR FUEL AT THE RATE OF ONLY 210 TONS A YEAR. IN THE CASE OF COMMERCIAL-BASIS REPROCESSING PLANTS, THE STANDARD LEVEL IS SAID TO BE 1,500 TONS A YEAR. FURTHERMORE, THE FIGURE OF 210 TONS IS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT THE PLANT WILL BE IN FULL OPERATION FOR 300 DAYS A YEAR. EVEN WHEN VIEWED FROM AN INTERNATIONAL STANDPOINT, THE OPERATION RATE OF SUCH A PLANT IS LOW. IN THE CASE OF OPERATION FOR 180 DAYS PER YEAR, THE AMOUNT OF REPROCESSING WILL BE ABOUT 130 TONS, AT THE MOST.

5. EVEN IF THE PLANT STARTS ITS TEST OPERATION RIGHT NOW, IT WILL NOT BECOME ABLE TO CARRY OUT FULL OPER-

TIONS UNTIL AFTER THE LAPSE OF THREE YEARS. DURING THAT PERIOD, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ADVANCE, WHILE CONFIRMING SAFETY AS TO EACH PROCESS, AND TO RAISE THE OPERATION RATE GRADUALLY. IN OTHER WORDS, EVEN IF EVERYTHING PROGRESSES AS SCHEDULED, DURING THE THREE YEARS OF THAT TEST OPERATION, THE OPERATION RATE WILL BE EQUIVALENT TO AN AVERAGE OF ONE-THIRD OF THE AUTHORIZED CAPACITY. MOREOVER, IT IS PLUTONIUM NITRATE WHICH WILL BE PRODUCED AT THE TOKAI-MURA PLANT. JAPAN'S POLICY IS TO TURN IT INTO PLUTONIUM AND TO MIX IT WITH URANIUM, THUS USING IT AS NUCLEAR FUEL FOR THE ADVANCED THERMAL CONVERTER REACTOR (ATR) OR FAST BREEDER REACTOR (FBE). IN REGARD TO 100-PERCENT-PURE METALLIC PLUTONIUM, CONCERNING WHICH THE US SIDE IS WORRIED ABOUT A DIVERSION

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TO MILITARY PURPOSES, OUR COUNTRY IS NOT THINKING OF EXTRACTING IT IN PURE FORM. AS FOR THE METALLIC PLUTONIUM, THERE ARE MANY POINTS OF MODIFICATION, AND IT TENDS TO BE DEFORMED MARKEDLY, DUE TO EXPANSION OR CONTRACTION. THEREFORE, IT IS UNSUITABLE FOR PEACEFUL USE, AS NUCLEAR FUEL.

6. THE US SIDE HAS STILL NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD SUCH AN ACTUAL SITUATION IN OUR COUNTRY AND THE POLICY THEREOF. JAPAN HAS ITS PEACE-LOVING CONSTITUTION. THE THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES WERE ADOPTED BY THE DIET. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATOMIC ENERGY BASIC LAW, THE UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY IS LIMITED ONLY TO PEACEFUL PURPOSES ALONE. OUR COUNTRY HAS VOLUNTARILY ACCEPTED THE PROPOSED INSPECTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA), AND HAS ALSO ALREADY RATIFIED THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. MOREOVER, JAPAN HAS DESIRED THE ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, FROM ITS HISTORIC EXPERIENCE AND NATIONAL SENTIMENTS AS THE ONLY A-BOMBED NATION. THUS, IT IS ORIENTED ONLY TOWARD THE PEACEFUL USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY. NEVERTHELESS, THE VIEW THAT "JAPAN WILL NUCLEARIZE ITSELF, SOONER OR LATER," IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES. NEWSWEEK, IN ITS RECENT ISSUE, ALSO QUOTES (MR. JOHN ROSCHE'S (TN: PHONETIC)) VIEW THAT "IF PRESIDENT CARTER IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAWS US FORCES FROM THE ROK, THEN JAPAN WILL NUCLEARIZE ITSELF WITHIN FIVE YEARS."

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7. ATOMIC ENERGY IN JAPAN IS LIABLE TO BECOME "SHORT-CIRCUITED" WITH THE MISUNDERSTANDING LYING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DEEP CONSCIOUSNESS OF VARIOUS OTHER NATIONS. THEREFORE, A STRANGE PHENOMENON IS APPEARING WHERE THE US IS TIGHTENING ITS NERVES ABOUT THE SMALL-SCALE PLANT AT TOKAI-MURA, WHILE THE COUNTRY, WHICH DROPPED ATOMIC BOMBS, IS PLANNING TO BIND PEACEFUL UTILIZATION BY THE COUNTRY WHICH WAS A-BOMBED. JAPAN MUST MAKE EFFORTS TO DISPEL SUCH A MISUNDERSTANDING AND TO DEEPEN CORRECT UNDERSTANDING. IT SHOULD MAKE PERSUASIVE EFFORTS BY SUBSTANTIATE (ITS STAND) WITH FACTS, FIRST OF ALL, AND ALSO BY APPEALING TO ITS REASON. THE US INSPECTION DELEGATION, WHICH HAS INSPECTED TOKAI MURA, HAS ALSO CORRECTLY EVALUATED JAPAN'S MEASURES FOR PREVENTION OF THE THEFT OF NUCLEAR FUEL AND ITS HIGH-LEVEL TECHNOLOGY FOR QUANTITATIVE SURVEILLANCE AS TO NUCLEAR SUBSTANCES.

8. IT IS ALSO NECESSARY FOR JAPAN TO UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY THE NEW NUCLEAR-ENERGY POLICY OF THE US, WHICH IS VERY GREATLY WORRIED ABOUT THE DANGER OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS SPREADING ON A WORLD-WIDE SCALE, AND TO EXTEND POSITIVE
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COOPERATION. AMERICA'S NEW POLICY IS BASED ON STERN STATISTICS, TO THE EFFECT THAT IF THE PRESENT SITUATION CONTINUES AS IS, THEN "POTENTIAL NUCLEAR CAPABILITY WILL SPREAD TO 100 COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD BY THE END OF THIS CENTURY, WHILE SUFFICIENT PLUTONIUM FOR THE

PRODUCTION OF 1,000,000 NAGASAKI-TYPE ATOMIC BOMBS WILL BE ACCUMULATED." THIS IS PROBABLY A GRAVE SITUATION, FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE US WHICH CALLS ITSELF THE MILITARY POLICE OF THE WORLD. THE US HAS ALREADY SURPASSED JAPAN, AND HAS BECOME THE BIGGEST OIL-IMPORTER NATION IN THE WORLD. THE OIL ROAD HAS NOW BECOME THE LIFELINE OF THE US WHICH IS RELYING ON FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR ITS SUPPLY OF OIL AMOUNTING TO 400 MILLION KILOLITERS A YEAR. THERE MUST NOT ARISE SUCH A SITUATION AS THAT SET FORTH IN THE NOVEL TITLED "GREAT CATASTROPHE IN 1979."

9. MOREOVER, UNEASINESS IS BEING ENTRRTAINED AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF POTENTIAL NUCLEAR CAPABILITY SPREADING TO CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, AN AREA OVER WHICH CONERN HAS BEEN ENTERTAINED TRADITIONALLY. THIS CAN CLEARLY BE SEEN EVEN IN AMERICA'S STRONG REPULSION AGAINST WEST GERMANY'S EXPORT OF A REPROCESSING PLANT TO BRAZIL. ALSO, AT THE TIME OF ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S VISIT TO THE US, PRESIDENT CARTER DID NOT CHANGE THIS POSTURE. IN REGARD TO FRANCE'S PLANNED EXPORT OF A REPROCESSING PLANT TO PAKISTAN, TOO, RECNSIDERATION WAS SOUGHT AFTER THE OUSTER OF BHUTO.

10. THE "JAPAN'S BASIC POLICY CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION," CONCERNING WHICH AMBASSADOR OGISO DELIVERED A SPEECH AT THE GENEVA DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE, AND THE STATEMENT, TITLED "AIMING TO SECURE CONSISTENCY UNCLASSIFIED

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BETWEEN PEACEFUL USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND NUCLEAR NON PROLIFERATION," WHICH STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN UNO ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE WAR, WILL BECOME THE STARTING POINT OF US-JAPAN COOPEATIN TOWARD ESTABLISHING A GLOBAL NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION STRUCTURE IN CONFORMITY WITH THE NEW SITUATION. THE US AND JAPAN MUST NO LONGER BE "HOSTILE" TOWARD EACH OTHER. AS "EQUAL PARTNERS," THE TWO COUNTRIES MUST JOINTLY PROPOSSE SAFEGUARDS FOR THE PEACEFUL UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY, WHICH SAFEGUARDS WILL BE POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT, AND ALSO ANINSPECTION SET-UP, AHEAD OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.

11. THE TOKAI-MURA PLANT SHOULD BE TURNED INTO AN INTERNATIONAL MODEL PLANT FOR THAT PURPOSE. THE US-JAPAN NUCLEAR-FUEL REPROCESSING NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT ONLY BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. OTHER NATIONS IN THE WORLD ARE PAYING CAREFUL ATTENTION TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. WITH REGARD TO THE 30-ODD COUNTRIES

WITH WHICH THE US HAS CONCLUDED ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENTS, AMERICA IS SCHEDULED TO START PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE REVISION THEREOF, FROM THIS AUTUMN. JAPAN IS ALSO YET TO SIGN THE COMMISSIONED REPROCESSING CONTRACTS WITH BRITAIN AND FRANCE AND TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA AND AUSTRALIA FOR REVISION OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED WITH THESE COUNTRIES. IF THE PROBLEM OF TRATING THE TOKAI-MURA PLANT IS NOT SETTLED, THEN A DEADLOCKED SITUATION WILL OCCUR WHEREBY NEITHER THE US NOR JAPAN CAN ADVANCE FORWARD, WITH THE "STATUS QUO REMAINING FROZEN".

12. PROPERLY SPEAKING, ATOMIC ENERGY HAS TWO ASPECTS: ONE OF THEM CONCERNING "NUCLEAR" (WEAPONS) FOR MILITARY USE AND THE OTHER ASPECT CONCERNING "ENERGY" FOR PEACEFUL UTILIZATION. THE US IS TALKING A SERIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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VIEW OF THE FORMER, WHILE JAPAN IS VIEWING THE LATTER ALONE. SUCH A GAP HAS CAUSED THE US-JAPAN NUCLEAR-FUEL REPROCESSING NEGOTIATIONS TO HAVE VERY HARD SAILING. AND, AT PRESENT, THE TIME IS COMING NEAR FOR THE TWO SIDES TO SECURE AGREEMENT, WHILE REACHING THEIR RESPECTIVE DECISPONS. THE RESULTS MUST BE TURNED INTO THE NEZT STEPPING-STONE AS TO THE NEW WORLD ATOMIC-ENERGY UTILIZATION STRUCTURE. UNQUOTE. MANSFIELD

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